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been somewhat restricted by the influences of the civil service examination system, but even here personal shrewdness is able to evade this barrier to the vulgar parvenu, as in the case of the notorious Ho Shen, a Manchu sergeant of Ch'ienlung's palace guard, who was able to accumulate a fortune of \$350,000,000. Worst of all as instruments of corruption were the eunuchs because they had nothing to lose. Every precaution of the early Manchu emperors against their control was swept to the winds under the decadents during whose weak reigns the palace became the same sort of conservatory of vice that marked the dramatic finale of the dishonored Mings. During the last miserable century of Manchu rule China, outside of the palace, has produced a number of really patriotic and able men; but the system is stronger than any individual; nothing in the country could escape the paralyzing influence of the gang who controlled the Master; and beneath the system was the passive multitude unaccustomed to share in politics, taught to obey a despot who was Heaven's vicegerent, and unaware of the notion of a government responsible to the governed. Under the pressure of new financial burdens and the dangers of foreign intervention China will learn her lesson of emancipation, but a new generation must arise before her people may be expected to dismiss their old conceptions of rulership and understand the meaning of the word republic.

F. W. WILLIAMS.

Boycotts and the Labor Struggle: Economic and Legal Aspects. BY HARRY W. LAIDLER, with an introduction by Henry R. Seager. (New York: John Lane Company, 1914. Pp. 488.)

The law of boycotts in the United States presents anomalous aspects in our national jurisprudence. The difficulty of reconciling with logic or legal principle the reasoning whereby our courts hold unlawful the mere concerted withdrawal of patronage from a given person and those who deal with him suggests the unlikelihood that the problem can be satisfactorily settled by the methods of the criminal law, and the consequent necessity of a new avenue of approach.

The author of the present treatise accordingly proposes an investigation of the boycott in its past and present operation, effect and tendencies, as the basis of a decision as to what its fate shall be.

To this end he first deals with the origin and history of the boycott and its actual use by labor combinations. A discussion of legal aspects follows. There is a full collection, analysis and comparison of state and

federal statutes affecting the boycott, and the reasons given by courts and writers why it should be held legal or unlawful, as the case might be. The author concludes that the great weight of judicial authority in this country at the present time is against the legality of the boycott—certainly in its secondary and compound forms. The law is otherwise in England and the continental countries of Europe. Attempts have been, and are still being, made to legalize it by state and federal statute, and the general tendency seems to be towards legalization.

The author next considers the social and economic reasons for and against the boycott, and in conclusion states his belief that peaceable boycotting in all its forms should be fully legalized; that it will not be abused in the majority of cases, and that its advantages to labor and to society on the whole greatly outweigh its possible disadvantages. The argument on this subject is suggestive, but will not entirely silence the critics who believe that the boycott is wrong in itself and pernicious in its effect on society and labor. These critics will say that the alleged wrongs of labor and the unfair methods of employers should be corrected by lawful means, and that they do not justify wrongful methods in retaliation. Nevertheless, the author approaches the problem from the standpoint that contains the best promise of permanent adjustment. Much of his material is new and interesting. His treatment is clear and well balanced. On the whole the volume is a distinct contribution to the subject with which it deals.

J. WALLACE BRYAN.

Unpopular Government in the United States. BY ALBERT M. KALES. (Chicago: University Press, 1914. Pp. 263.)

Professor Kales had the happy idea of treating our actual political system from the personal experience of the citizen, thus reaching his conclusions upon constitutional values by induction. He starts with his own case—"one of about two thousand voters in a township" called upon to elect sundry officers in township, county, state and nation. He gives a complete schedule of the tasks put upon the voter, with facsimiles of the ballots he must use. This cold, systematic presentation of the facts makes the most comprehensive exhibition possible of the absurdity of the system of filling executive and judicial positions by popular election. Professor Kales demonstrates that the boss and the ring are the proper and inevitable concomitants of the system, and that nothing short of radical change of system will bring the government under popular